

Committee also have input on the federal SSIG program, the scholarship program, because there was some concern that the Citizens Advisory Committee should have some input in that. So those are the two more technical changes in that committee amendment that I just explained. I would urge the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson, did you wish to talk to the Vickers amendment to the committee amendment? Senator Higgins, did you wish to talk to the Vickers amendment to the committee amendment?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, Mr. President. If I could, I would like to ask Senator Vickers if he would yield to a question.

SENATOR VICKERS: Certainly, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I am looking at the fiscal note, Senator Vickers. It says LB 1172 creates the Higher Education Planning and Review Act. The act creates the Higher Education Planning and Review Agency and it eliminates the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, transfers their powers, et cetera, the director of the new one appointed by the Governor. Could you tell me, why are we doing this?

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, I don't even know whether you are familiar with the Coordinating Commission or not. Many people in the Legislature are not. The Coordinating...

SENATOR HIGGINS: You can use all of my time, Senator.

SENATOR VICKERS: We have got a Coordinating Commission right now. The reason we are doing it is because we do spend an awful lot of money on higher education. There is a lot of concern that we don't have any mechanism to coordinate everything that is going on in higher education. This is an effort to bring that level of coordination up to a little higher level where you will know that something is happening in coordination.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Do you really put a lot of stock in these advisory committees? It has been my experience in Omaha that when we create advisory committees for different things they are just a bunch of people that meet, get their travel expenses and everything and then those that actually make